

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please delete the heading “Description” on page 1, line 3.**

**Please insert the following heading on page 1, line 7: --FIELD OF THE INVENTION--**

**Please insert the following heading on page 1, above line 13 : --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10, as follows:**

In contrast to the related art, ~~the object of~~ the present invention ~~is to provide~~ provides a cost-effective and technically easy to manufacture, thermostable and liquid-tight joint between a first component, ceramic in particular, and a second component, metallic in particular, which may be exposed to an external medium and which reliably withstands rapid and frequent temperature changes (“temperature shocks”).

**Please insert the following heading on page 2, above line 15 : -- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, as follows:**

According to one embodiment of the present invention, ~~this object is achieved by a joint having has~~ a first bond between the first and the second component and a second bond whose adhesive has a greater elasticity than the adhesive of the first bond and which is placed in such a way that direct contact of the first bond with the external medium is prevented.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5, as follows:**

A first ~~essential~~ aspect of the present invention is to provide the use of separately optimized adhesives or adhesives optimizable in their selection. The adhesive selected for the first bond ~~must~~ may be selected in an optimized manner with regard to the strength of the mechanical joint (fixing) between the first and the second component. This means that a relatively hard, less elastic, strong adhesive having very good mechanical strength properties ~~must~~ may be selected.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11, as follows:**

In contrast, an adhesive which features high elasticity, possibly by accepting less strength and hardness ~~must~~ may be provided for the second bond.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14, as follows:**

A further ~~essential~~ aspect of the present invention is that the strong adhesive, which ensures the mechanical strength of the joint, may be reliably protected from outside influences, a medium to be measured in particular, by the adhesive of the second bond. The latter is advantageously optimized with regard to its resistance vis-à-vis external (e.g., aggressive) media.

**Please insert the following heading on page 4, above line 9: --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 13, as follows:**

Figure 1 schematically shows a joint according to one embodiment of the present invention,

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15, as follows:**

Figure 2 shows a view of a measuring device in which the joint according to one embodiment of the present invention is used,

**Please insert the following heading on page 4, above line 21: --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION--**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22, as follows:**

Figure 1 schematically shows a joint according to one embodiment of the present invention between a metallic component 1 and a ceramic component 2. The metallic component has a sleeve-shaped design including a pass-through bore 3 and an intermediate plate 5 running transversally therein. A bore 8 for passage of ceramic component 2 is provided in intermediate plate 5. The area of bore 8 is filled with a top quality adhesive 10 which firmly embeds a section 12 of ceramic component 2. Adhesive 10 is a particularly strong adhesive which exhibits high adhesivity to metal as well as ceramic materials and, by forming a first bond 14, ensures secure fixing of the ceramic component in bore 8.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 27, as follows:**

Exterior side 23 of second bond 22 forms the sole adhesive contact surface 24 to medium 20 and, due to its elastic properties, compensates thermal-related tensions so well that great tightness of the entire joint is ensured. First bond 14, situated behind second bond 22 viewed in the direction of the temperature gradient, is advantageously at a distance from contact surface 24 and thus from the direct temperature effect. Cracking caused by brittle, hard adhesives is thus not an issue. In addition, ~~bond adhesive~~ 16 may be optimally adjusted to the aggressive properties of medium 20, for example, and may thus fulfill its protective function vis-à-vis the first bond particularly well.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 8, as follows:**

As an example, Figure 2 shows a measuring device including a device assembly 30 and a sensor assembly 31 in which the joint according to one embodiment of the present invention is used.

Sensor assembly 31 includes a feeler board and actual sensor 32 which is enclosed by a protective guard 34. The sensor includes a ceramic (feeler) element which requires a liquid-tight and thermostable lead-through from upper sensor assembly tube 36.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 23, as follows:**

Figure 4 shows a highly magnified partial longitudinal section of part of the device, completed in this way. Use of joint 50 according to one embodiment of the present invention in the measuring device is well visible. As described, the joint is made up of a first bond 52 between ceramic component (sensor) 40 and a metallic component (sleeve) 42 and a second bond 54 which covers first bond 52, thereby protecting it from outside influences and the effects of rapid temperature changes (“temperature shocks”). In addition, indicated NTC resistor 56 and weld 58 between protective tube 44 and sleeve (sensor receptacle) 42 are recognizable in Figure 4.

**Please insert the following paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30:**

Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of the specification or practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with the true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

**Please delete pages 7 and 8 in their entirety.**